



THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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Libertarians applaud court decision blocking Communications Decency Act

It's "good news for freedom of speech and good news for the future"

WASHINGTON, DC -- The Third Circuit Court of Appeals' decision to strike down the Communications Decency Act is "good news for freedom of speech in America, and good news for the future," the Libertarian Party said today.

"This decision will help keep meddling politicians away from a technology that most of them don't even understand," said Steve Dasbach, Chairman of America's third largest political party.

A three judge federal panel in Philadelphia ruled on June 12th that the Internet is the "most participatory form of mass communication yet developed [and] deserves the highest protection against government intrusion." The judges also ruled that the Communications Decency Act's prohibition of "indecent" material — punishable by a \$250,000 fine and two years in prison — was unconstitutionally broad and vague.

"This court decision striking down the Communications Decency Act [CDA] will, hopefully, create a **zone of privacy** around electronic communications that the government cannot breach," said Dasbach. "Since the Internet is one of the most important technologies of today — and one of the most exciting mass communications mediums of tomorrow — this decision is good news for freedom of speech in America, and good news for the future."

— The Libertarian Party opposed the CDA right from the start, calling it "censorship — an effort by politicians and bureaucrats to restrict the freedom of the electronic press and a clear violation of the First Amendment. **Free speech is free speech, whether it is distributed via an 18th-century printing press or a 20th-century modem,**" said Dasbach.

The Libertarian Party was a member of an Internet coalition to fight the bill, along with the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Council for the Arts, the Center For Democracy & Technology, and People for the American Way.

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